the time when Dr. K. Raman Tampi was in charge of the General Hospital, and also of those who do that work there now?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The information * required is laid on the table.

Training of Nurses.

13. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of institutions in the Medical Department for the training of nurses?

(*b*) How many were trained as nurses during the last five years?

(*c*) How many of them have been appointed as nurses in hospitals?

(*d*) How many are without employment?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Nurses receive their training in the General Hospital and the Women and Children's Hospital. Four Indian Nursing Sisters were trained in the District Hospital, Kottayam, also, before Nursing Classes were opened in Trivandrum.

(*b*) Seventeen nurses have been trained during the last five years.

(*c*) Four Indian Nursing Sisters have been appointed to the Kottayam District Hospital, while the remaining thirteen have been posted to the General Hospital.

(*d*) None.

Appointment of Nurses.

14. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of hospitals where nurses have not been appointed?

(*b*) Who do the work of nurses in these hospitals at present?

(*c*) Are the menial servants made to do the work of nurses in hospitals where there are no nurses? If so, are Government aware of the fact that this practice is highly dangerous to the patients?

(*d*) Do the Government contemplate appointing nurses in all the hospitals?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Nurses have not been appointed in 22 hospitals.

(*b*) Midwives, who are also trained in sick nursing, assisted by warders.

(*c*) Menials are not permitted to do nursing in any hospital.

(*d*) Government have sanctioned the training of more nurses for being posted to hospitals.

Medicines out of stock and Substitutes.

15. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Darbar Physician has issued circulars to the effect that chits containing the names

* *Vide* Appendix IV—page 12.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

of medicines that are out of stock in the hospitals should not be given to patients in order to enable them to purchase the same from shops, that, in the place of such medicines, substitutes should be mixed up, and that the patients should not be informed of the fact that any medicine is out of stock in the hospitals?

(*b*) Are there "substitutes" even for important medicines?

(*c*) Are the available medicines adequately supplied to the hospitals?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No circular of the kind referred to has been issued.

(*b*) The member is referred to the Darbar Physician's circular No. 15, dated the 2nd December, 1921, a copy* of which is laid on the table.

(*c*) Drugs ordinarily required are adequately supplied.

Stock of Medicines in Hospitals.

16. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Darbar Physician has issued a circular to the effect that medical officers should not prescribe medicines that are out of stock and direct patients to purchase them from outside?

(*b*) Is it a fact that most drugs of everyday use have run short in many of the hospitals of the State?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 15, put by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.

(*b*) Government have received no complaints to that effect.

Purchase of Opium and Ganja.

17. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of opium and ganja which the Excise Department purchased from the British stores at Santravur during 1096 and 1097, and the quantity that remained in stock on the 30th Karkadakam, 1097?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In 1096, 5,000 seers and in 1097, 3,500 seers of ganja and no opium were purchased from the storehouse at Santravur.

The opium and ganja that remained in stock on the 30th Karkadakam, 1097, were 2481 seers 15·69 tolas and 3,460 seers 22·125 tolas respectively.

Devicolam Division and Plague.

18. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state from what time the Devicolam Division has been kept under observation for purposes of the plague?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to page 382, Part IV, of the Government Gazette dated the 2nd January, 1923, and to page 407, Part IV, of the Government Gazette dated the 23rd January, 1923.

* *Vide* Appendix V—page 11.

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Appendix V.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 15.**

No. 45. Darbar Physician's Office,
Trivandrum, 2nd December, 1921.

CIRCULAR.

Medical Officers are directed to exercise great care in the issue and prescription of drugs.

The supply of medicines given for the year 1097 is ample for 12 months and ought to be sufficient to last till the end of the third month in 1098.

The stock keys should, on no account, be passed on to compounders or others, but, each morning, the issues are to be made by the Medical Officer according to the needs of each day, or issues may be made in the evening after the day's work, according to the needs of the following day.

The stock mixtures in common use ought to be prepared daily according to the formulae given and only these stock mixtures should be prescribed as a general rule, special prescriptions being written and dispensed only in exceptional cases. A book may be opened and in it entered against each day the quantity of the various stock mixtures made up.

No prescription ticket is to be lost or destroyed under any circumstances. Tickets may be destroyed only after obtaining the sanction of the Darbar Physican.

Some drugs like Santonine and Extract Ergot Liquid., etc., are very expensive and these ought to be issued and dispensed under the strictest supervision. It is reported that in some places, when the Medical Officers prescribe Santonine, the compounder pockets Santonine and deals cut some other white powder to the ignorant patients. This and similar malpractices on the part of some of the compounders ought to be put a stop to with a strong hand, and there should not be even a whisper of evil report from the public against them. Medical Officers should, on no account, hesitate to report immediately any dishonesty, indifference or disobedience on the part of compounders.

Patients in some hospitals are directed to go and buy certain drugs from outside to make up their prescription, thus giving the patient the idea that the Hospital is short of medicine when it is not. Medical Officers have a very wide range of drugs available for selection, so that, if one is not available, another can be readily substituted, provided that the Medical Officer's knowledge of Materia Medica and Therapeutics is fair.

Some mixtures are often indiscriminately used, as for example diaphoretic mixture. This mixture is very frequently prescribed for most cases of fever. If the Medical Officer will take the trouble to investigate the cause and attempt to make a correct diagnosis, he will

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[President.]

find fewer occasions for such symptomatic treatment by a costly mixture.

The habit of prescribing costly drugs for improving flavour or taste of mixtures, *e. g.*, Glycerine, so liberally prescribed by some, should be avoided.

Some tinctures supplied this year are in a concentrated form and require great care both in prescribing and in dispensing.

As a rule, medicines for more than two, or, at the most three, days should not be given to patients and the habit of prescribing concentrated mixtures to last for many days ought to be given up.

Compounders shall not be held responsible for the maintenance of records or correspondence. They shall have nothing to do with these. Circular No. 42 dated 27-11-1920 where compounders are allowed to help in correspondence means that their services may be utilised for copying correspondence.

PETER N. LAKSHMANAN,
Darbar Physician.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): As regards the answer* to question No. 1 of Mr. S. Adam Sait *re.* Examination of traders' accounts, I wish to know what are the qualifications of the Income-tax Auditor.

PRESIDENT: Under the rules, only the member who has sent in a question can ask supplemental questions to that question.

REGULATIONS ASSENTED TO BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHA RAJA.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to the Legislative Council*): I beg to announce that the following Regulations have received the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja on the dates noted against them:—

(1) The Destruction of Records Regulation, II of 1098. 15th June 1923.

(2) The Tolls Recovery Regulation Amendment Regulation, III of 1098. 15th June 1923.

MEMBERS ON THE P. W. D. WORKSHOPS COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT: The following gentlemen were elected on the 21st April, 1923, by the non-official members of the Legislative Council, as members of the P. W. D. Workshops Committee:

Mr. A. Hcogewerf (*Nominated*).
Mr. Paul V. Daniel (*Agastisvaram*).
M. R. Ry. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai Avargal (*Chirayinkil*).
" " " M. N. Pillai Avargal (*Trivandrum*).

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* Not included here as the member was absent at question-time.

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